

Oliver D. Mead House
Greenwich, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

OLIVER D. MEAD HOUSE

Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn.

Owner: ~~Oliver D. Mead~~, Field Point Park, Greenwich

Date of Erection: 1792

Architect or Builder: Abraham Mead

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and One-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation
End brick Chimneys
Shingled sidewalls and roof

Other Existing Records: "Ye Historie of Greenwich" -
S. P. Mead.
History and Genealogy of the
Mead Family.
"Other Days in Greenwich" -
Fredrick A. Hubbard.

List of Photographs:

1. South East Elevation
2. Fence and Barnyard Gate
3. Cupboard - N. E., Corner of Kitchen
4. Oven Bulge - Outer Wall of Kitchen

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If one were to delve into all the volumes written about the Mead family, it would certainly entail a maximum of reading, but it would also insure some pleasant hours for they were of a gallant heroic stock of the early pioneers.

The Meads' were direct descendants of one who was a personal friend and physician to Queen Elizabeth of England. Two brothers, John and another came to America early, John settling in Hempstead, L. I., with his two sons while his brother settled in Virginia. John's son, also named John, came to Greenwich, Connecticut, and settled in 1660.

The builder of the Oliver D. Mead House was Captain Abraham Mead, son of Deacon Ebenezer Mead. He built this impressive old homestead in 1792 and it has been in the Mead family ever since. At an early age Abraham Mead was apprenticed to a Dutchman to learn the pottering trade, and he was such an apt pupil that when his time was up he was immediately taken into the business by his teacher. To distinguish Captain Abraham Mead from others of the same name, he was known by the quaint appellation of Deacon Potter from his occupation. Captain Mead was prominent in the Revolutionary War, being an officer in General Putnam's army. Acting as rear guard while Washington and the main army retreated to Harlem Heights, the entire force was very nearly cut off. In 1777, on Oct., 8th, he was appointed a member of the Committee of Safety and served until the end of the war. In this commission a price was placed on his head and he was in constant danger, not only from recognized foes, but from false friends as well who might betray him for the reward.

After the war he resumed his pottery business, and it is said he made an entire boat load of pottery and sold it, the proceeds being used to pay off a note on the Second Congregational Church of which he was deacon and treasurer for many years. On December 17, 1787, he was chosen town treasurer and served in this capacity for ten consecutive years.

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The Oliver D. Mead House is a fine architecture example because it has been in appreciative hands for so many years. The present owner, who is very close to the century marker in age, is rightfully very proud of this old home and sees that it is well cared for. Most of the furnishings of the house are original, and of the early English style. There is a grandfather's clock, one of the earliest to be brought to this country, which is very odd being much taller than the more accustomed type. Early type chairs, desk, beds, and even the original "wood box" give the beautiful interior of this house just the right surrounding. A very beautiful and early type knocker adorns the front door.

Adjoining the house to the left are some of the original barns, which are still in their original unpainted condition. In front of the barns there is a very attractive gray stone wall, about five feet high. In the center of the wall is an old wooden gate with heavy old style hinges and hand wrought nails.

All these interesting features, coupled with the knowledge of the truly admirable people who made history from this house, make it a most interesting subject both historically and architecturally.

Source of Information: "Ye Historie of Greenwich" -
SP. Mead.
History and Genealogy of the Mead
Family.
"Other Days in Greenwich" -
Fredrick A. Hubbard.
Conversations with Oliver D. Mead.

Author:

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Approved:

Harold W. Davis - Feb. 27-1939